

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Imports and Exports of Machinery

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- [REDACTED]
1. In the field of machinery and vehicles, Czechoslovakia is interested in exporting [REDACTED] only small automobiles, tractors, and small quantities of textile and wood working machinery. The CSR will, however, export one or a few of almost any machinery item if by so doing the Government can receive in return some badly needed commodity. 50X1
 2. During 1949 Czechoslovakia exported [REDACTED] small quantities of special textile and woodworking machinery. [REDACTED] they were similar to the machinery Czechoslovakia sent [REDACTED] before World War II. [REDACTED] there has been no deterioration in its quality during the postwar period. The bulk of the output of Czech textile machinery is exported to the USSR and Satellites. 50X1
 3. The Czechs are exporting quite a number of Skoda and Tatra automobiles [REDACTED] at cost or below cost in order to cover their purchases [REDACTED]. These autos run fairly well, but there is some trouble with the electrical systems and carburetors. Another difficulty is that distributors of Czech autos [REDACTED] stock only a few common spare parts. All other spare parts must be ordered individually from the CSR, and the [REDACTED] car owner must wait three or four weeks before the part arrives. The Czech autos are cheaper than other makes of cars available [REDACTED] but the difficulty of obtaining spare parts makes many [REDACTED] reluctant to purchase them. 50X1
 4. The Czechs have also offered [REDACTED] small agricultural tractors of the Zetor type [REDACTED]. The 1951 trade agreement provided for the CSR to export \$100,000 worth [REDACTED]. The Czechs are not interested in exporting any heavy tractors of the track-laying type. 50X1
 5. [REDACTED] Actually, there is a shortage of agricultural machinery in the CSR, not a critical shortage as in the other Eastern European countries, but of sufficient magnitude to hinder the speed of collectivization of agriculture. 50X1
 6. Exports of such industrial installations as breweries and sugar factories, for which Czechoslovakia was once famous, are currently at a minimum. 50X1

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7. The CSR is not interested in exporting any significant number of machine tools to the West. They might export a few, if the goods they received in turn were of high strategic value. [redacted] the Czech machine tool export catalog and the exhibitions of Czech machine tools at western European trade fairs are primarily for propaganda purposes. On the other hand, Czechoslovakia is anxious to obtain [redacted] special lathes and presses. 50X1
8. Czechoslovakia formerly imported all types of bearings from the West, though less from Germany than from other countries such as Sweden. With the development of the Czechoslovakian bearing industry during the past few years, the CSR is now able to supply its requirements for standard types of bearings and is interested primarily in importing precision types. [redacted] 50X1
9. At the beginning of the Korean War, Czechoslovakia had on order [redacted] for certain items of industrial machinery for which [redacted] export licenses had been issued. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

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